

**Agency Activity Inventory  
by Agency  
Appropriation Period: FY 2004-05**

**Agency:** B04 - Judicial Department

**Functional Group:** Judicial

**14 Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. It interprets the law of South Carolina and is the final rule-making body for all other courts in the state. The Supreme Court's published decisions serve as binding precedent on all other courts in the state. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over cases involving significant public interest, decides appeals, and can also review the decisions of the Court of Appeals. Article V, SC State Constitution

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$4,971,302	\$3,062,600	\$0	No	\$1,908,702	48.47

**Expected Results:**

Serve as the ultimate legal authority in South Carolina. Provide for the prompt and orderly administration of justice in SC; provide oversight of all levels of court in SC and the SC Bar. Serve as the administrative head of the unified court system (8 levels of court in 46 counties) in the state of South Carolina.

**Outcome Measures:**

The outcome measures are the perceived effectiveness and efficiency of the state court system. The Supreme Court has both adjudicatory and administrative functions. Numerical output measures are published in the annual accountability report.

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**15 Bar Examiners**

The Office of Bar Admissions is responsible for processing applications of individuals seeking admission to practice law in SC. It also certifies lawyers from out of state to appear in specific cases and it certifies the level of experience of SC lawyers. Article V, SC State Constitution

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$185,000	\$35,000	\$0	No	\$150,000	0.00

**Expected Results:**

The Board of Law Examiners and the committee on Character and Fitness ensure that lawyers have the requisite legal knowledge, skills, and character to competently and ethically handle the legal affairs of the citizens of SC.

**Outcome Measures:**

The outcomes measures are the number of law exam applicants that are screened and processed to take the bar exam, number that pass the bar exam, and the manner in which other lawyer certification requests are handled. Numerical output measures are published in the annual accountability report.

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**16 Disciplinary Counsel**

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel investigates and prosecutes complaints involving allegations of misconduct and incapacity on the part of lawyers licensed to practice law in SC and of judges who are part of the state unified judicial system. Article V, SC State Constitution

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$934,392	\$412,367	\$0	No	\$522,025	14.00

**Expected Results:**

Enforce the ethical rules and codes of conduct of the Judicial Department pertaining to the lawyers and judges in the state.

**Outcome Measures:**

Outcomes are measured in terms of complaints filed, investigated and resolved during the year. Numerical output measures are published in the annual accountability report.

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**17 Appeals Court**

The Court of Appeals is an intermediate appellate court. This court reviews decisions of the lower courts for procedural and/or legal errors. Section 14-1-70

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$5,313,292	\$3,373,605	\$0	No	\$1,939,687	62.00

**Expected Results:**

The published decisions of the Court of Appeals serve as precedent for the trial courts, unless the decision is overruled by the Supreme Court.

**Outcome Measures:**

Outcomes are measured in terms of appeals filed, cases closed, opinions published, and nonpublished opinions rendered. Numerical output measures are published in the annual accountability report

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**18 Circuit Court**

The Circuit Courts are South Carolina's courts of general jurisdiction which are comprised of the General Sessions Courts which hear criminal cases and Common Pleas which hear civil disputes. Section 14-1-70

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$16,985,261	\$11,830,608	\$0	No	\$5,154,653	208.00

**Expected Results:**

The Courts of General Sessions hear criminal cases, protect the rights of the accused to a fair and impartial trial, protect the rights of the victim while at the same time, balancing the need of public safety and goals of society at large of punishing and rehabilitating convicted offenders. The Courts of Common Pleas provide a forum for the resolution of civil disputes involving sums greater than \$7500 and to provide immediate relief and time for a thorough assessment of a particular situation such as temporary stop to demolition of a historic landmark.

**Outcome Measures:**

Benchmarks have been established to meet the parties' need to have cases decided within a reasonable amount of time. Numerical output measures are published in the annual accountability report.

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**19 Family Court**

Family courts provide a forum for the resolution of disputes involving family matters: divorce, abuse and neglect, protection from domestic abuse, and juvenile matters. Title 20

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$14,104,036	\$10,257,147	\$0	No	\$3,846,889	165.00

**Expected Results:**

Decide cases involving the most intimate details of citizens' lives while preserving the litigants' privacy and protecting the public's right of access to the courts.

**Outcome Measures:**

Benchmarks have been established to meet the parties' need to have cases decided within a reasonable amount of time. Numerical output measures are published in the annual accountability report.

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**20 Court Administration**

Court Administration serves the Chief Justice in her capacity as the administrative head of the unified judicial system. This office has a wide range of duties which include recommending to the Chief Justice the scheduling of terms of circuit and family court and the assignment of judges and the assignment and supervision of court reporters to those sessions of court. They provide assistance to clerks of court as well as to equity, probate, magistrate and municipal judges. This office also supplies reports and documents to the Legislative and Executive branches. It also provides training and facilitates meetings for various groups that provide input into judicial system operations. Article V, SC State Constitution

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$1,497,056	\$1,050,220	\$0	No	\$446,836	23.00

**Expected Results:**

Court Administration has responsibility for providing support, direction, and guidance to state, county, and local personnel working in the Circuit Court, Masters-in-Equity Court, Family Court, Probate Court, Magistrate Court, and Municipal Court.

**Outcome Measures:**

Outcome measures for Court Administration are reflected in the effective and efficient management of judicial resources in accordance with the various caseload requirements of the different levels of courts, counties, and judicial circuits. These measures include judicial education, efficiency of judicial operations, and judicial statistical reports as reported by the various levels of court. Numerical outcome measurements are reflected in the annual accountability report.

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**21 Administration (Finance & Personnel)**

Provides the financial management and personnel functions for the Judicial Department. (overhead) Article V, SC State Constitution

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$794,051	\$688,506	\$0	No	\$105,545	15.00

**Expected Results:**

Finance and Personnel has responsibility for: budgeting, accounting; procurement; inventory control; payroll; human resources administration; and benefits administration. Finance and Personnel provides the necessary administrative support and structure to allow other units within the Judicial Department to concentrate on their primary missions.

**Outcome Measures:**

Outcome measures for Finance and Personnel are reflected in the management of the finances and FTEs for the Judicial Department. With the increasing amount and complexity of the fines, fees, and assessment structure passed by the State Legislature being implemented in the South Carolina Courts, Finance and Personnel will

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now be collecting funds from counties and municipalities in addition to state budget and federal grant administration.

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## 22 Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology (IT) provides the technology tools needed to modernize the Judicial Branch of South Carolina. IT improves the criminal justice process through the use of appropriate and properly implemented technology as well as enables the South Carolina Courts to electronically exchange information with other state and local agencies.

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$6,076,599	\$1,066,914	\$4,395,672	Yes	\$614,013	21.00

### Expected Results:

IT manages the SCUD network; provides technology training and support services to the Judicial Branch (state, county, and municipal staff); has developed the web as a primary communications medium for the Judicial Department; is deploying a statewide court case management system to provide quality case tracking, timely access to accurate information, and consistency of operations in the Circuit and Summary Courts; and is collaborating with each county and other state agencies to consolidate telecommunications and leverage economies of scale with technology as much as possible.

### Outcome Measures:

Outcome measures for IT are reflected in several ways: The primary measure is the efficiency and effectiveness of the court process in South Carolina that is reported in the statistical reports of each level of court. Associated measures are the access to court information through the internet to the public and through both the internet and intranet to judicial staff. The number of counties that have their judicial facilities on high-speed, reliable internet connections and are using email is another measure. The cost savings to the Judicial Department and counties in issuing necessary court reports, court calendars, court rosters, etc... are measures. The national recognition being received for the SCJD technology initiatives is another measure. Major accomplishments are identified in the annual accountability report.

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## 23 Judicial Commitment

Funds to provide representation in involuntary commitment cases. Sections 44-17, 44-24, 44-25

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	No	\$0	0.00

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**Expected Results:**

To fulfill federal mandates requiring representation of individuals committed to various facilities against their wishes.

**Outcome Measures:**

SCJD acts as a conduit for funds received from the Department of Mental Health to pay vouchers submitted by lawyers representing individuals in involuntary commitment cases. Outcome measure is primarily the amount of claims processed.

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**24 Interpreters**

Interpreting services for the deaf and /or non-English speaking participants in the South Carolina Courts. Sections 17-1-50, 15-27-155 and 15-27-15

FY 2004-05					
Total	General Funds	Federal Funds	FM	Other Funds	FTEs
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	No	\$0	0.00

**Expected Results:**

To fulfill federal and state mandates to allow individuals with hearing or English comprehension difficulties to participate in court processes.

**Outcome Measures:**

SCJD has used funds from other sources, in addition to those appropriated for this purpose to pay vouchers of interpreters in court proceedings. Outcome measure is primarily the amount of claims processed.

**AGENCY TOTALS**

*Judicial Department*

TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL FTEs
\$50,866,989	\$31,782,967	\$4,395,672	\$14,688,350	556.47